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Reflection 1

Due: 9/13/11

**How do the ideals of social justice, collaboration, critical self-evaluation and diversity align with our course objectives and outcomes, and pertain to us in our role as pedagogues?**

Brooklyn College School of Education’s conceptual framework is a reflection of the school’s commitment to preparing teachers in a borough rife with diversity. The framework encompasses four main themes in which all pedagogues should aim to consider when preparing to be a teacher: diversity, collaboration, social justice, and critical self-reflection. In Seminar in Applied Research and Thesis, we are aiming to utilize our community’s diversity to find a topic of interest to take an active role as researcher on. Topic we choose are often ones that we find my require an intervention and may stem from an issue of social justice. Brooklyn College extends itself to be an advocate for equity among students and their families despite their socioeconomic status. The framework supports the need for such advocacy and guides teachers to bridge the gaps between the various backgrounds of their students. Another important component of the framework is the importance placed on collaboration and teamwork within the field of pedagogy. In order to accomplish many of the goals of this course, collaboration is vital. One must align themselves peers and professionals in order to gain more knowledge, give and receive feedback and learn to work well with others. Not only is this important for teachers, but for all fields of study and in order to teach collaborative skills, one must obtain them him/herself. Finally, the fourth theme of the conceptual framework is self-reflection. Emphasis is placed on evaluating oneself because it so important in understanding one’s impact, or lack thereof, on all capacities of their profession. A teacher must self-evaluate in order to improve, change or better understand how their skills are being put to use and how they are succeeding as a professional. Self-evaluating during the process of research is important because it allows you to take a step back and examine with an honest eye, the level at which you are performing. Self-evaluation may be difficult, but is vital in the day-to-day role of the teacher and allows for motivation to exceed expectations. The four themes analyzed in the framework are collective and interdependent on one another. In order to master one theme, other aspects have to be examined. Evidence from all of the themes support one another and as a whole, contribute to the success of a well-rounded practitioner in education.